It is evident that the decision upon these new propositions must be left entirely to the governments interested. At any rate, the discussion of the Austrian propositions appear to be quite beyond the powers of either the French Section or the Permanent Committee, who are in no way authorised to re-open questions which, so far as the action of the Commission is concerned, have already been unanimously decided at the full meeting of the Commission. Meanwhile, the specific work of the Commission must be proceeded with, and the approaching meeting at Paris will enable the final decisions to be made, which alone are now required for beginning the construction of the new Standards. H. W. CHISHOLM

NOTES

AN election will be held on Thursday, October 30, to two fellowships in connection with Merton College, Oxford. The examination for one of these fellowships will be in mathematics, for the other in physical science. The election to the physical science fellowship will be decided with respect to proficiency in physics, but candidates will have an opportunity of showing a knowledge of chemistry as supplementary to physics. The examination in both these subjects will be partly practical, partly by papers, and will be held in common with Magdalen College. A lectureship in physics, tenable for three years, in Trinity College, of 200*l.* per annum, will be offered to the Fellow to be elected. The examination for the two fellowships will commence on Tuesday, October 7, at 9 A.M., in the Merton College Hall. Candidates are required to call on the Warden on Tuesday, October 7, between 4 and 5 P.M.

THE Opening Address of this session of the St. Thomas Charterhouse Teachers' Science Classes will be delivered by Mr. F. C. Buckmaster on Saturday morning, the 20th inst., at 10.30. The chair will be taken by Sir J. Bennett, and a deputation from the Science Department of South Kensington will attend. Last year this undertaking met with signal success: above 200 teachers of primary schools availed themselves of the privileges offered by the institution. Many of the late students are now qualified to give instruction in elementary science. The movement is likely to do an immense amount of good in the way of making the teaching of elementary science common amongst the masses. During the recess about 250*l.* has been expended in fitting up a chemical laboratory and purchasing scientific apparatus; this, together with the engagement of an additional number of lecturers, it is thought will again secure a large number students.

WE understand that the bryological books and exceedingly rich and important collections and preparations of mosses left by the late Prof. Sullivant, whose death we recorded last week, are consigned to the Grey Herbarium of Harvard University, with a view to their preservation and long continued usefulness. The remainder of his botanical library, his choice microscopes, and other collections are bequeathed to the State Scientific and Agricultural College just established at Columbus.

THE *American Naturalist* for August records the death of four contributors to that journal, all more or less known as working naturalists:—Prof. John Lewis Russell, of Salem, one of the founders, and for many years president of the Essex County (Massachusetts) Natural History Society, which afterwards became part of the Essex Institute, an active worker in botany; Mr. George Gibbs, of New Haven, the distinguished American ethnologist and philologist, whose special work had been in the language and history of the North American Indians; Col. John W. Foster, president of the Chicago Academy of Science, a constant contributor of papers and memoirs on geological and archæological subjects, and joint author with Prof. Whitney of the Government Report on the Mineral Lands of Lake Superior, published in 1850; and Prof. Henry James Clark, of Amherst, one of the most thorough histologists and best microscopists in the country, and a large contributor to Prof. Agassiz's volumes on the Natural History of the United States. Of these losses to science, Prof. Clark was under 50, and only Prof. Lewis over 60.

THE first meeting of the Agassiz Natural History Club, recently organised by the students of the Anderson School of Natural History on Penikese Island, was held on July 24, and showed signs of great energy and activity. Although the school had only been open a fortnight, lectures on surface geology, the embryology of vertebrates and articulates, on physiology, physical geography, on the microscope and its construction, with practical lessons on its use; free hand drawing on the blackboard, zoological and landscape drawing, and daily dredging excursions in the yacht *Sprite*, together with instructions in collecting and preserving animals, have been given. The amount of laboratory work done is stated to be most satisfactory. Large aquaria are being set up in the temporary laboratory.

THE Council of the Pharmaceutical Society are desirous of forming a complete herbarium of medical plants from every quarter of the globe, whether officinal or not. Mr. Holmes, the Curator of the Society's Museum, 17, Bloomsbury Square, will be glad to enter into communication with any foreign botanists and pharmaceutists willing to co-operate in the work.

IN a telegram from St. Petersburg, September 11, it is stated that General Kaufmann reports that the Amoo Daria river is not navigable by steamboats. The scientific expedition sent out by General Kaufmann to explore the old bed of the Amoo Daria river as far as the lake of Lara Kamish, returned on July 23 to the camp at Kunurgentsch. The expedition explored the river to a distance of 450 versts, and succeeded in collecting much valuable information and scientific materials.

IN a telegram from St. John's, Newfoundland, of September 11, it is stated that the *Juniata* had arrived there and reported that the camp of the crew of the *Polaris* was discovered by the *Tigress* on August 14 at Littleton Island, where the ship was deserted. Manuscript records of the expedition up to a period of six weeks before the discovery were secured. The *Tigress* is still in search of the Buddington party, who are believed to be safe.

A PAPER in Petermann's *Mittheilungen* upon the driftwood found in Nova Zembla has at present a special interest in connection with the discovery of fragments of a similar character by the crew of the *Polaris* in Polaris and Newman Bays. The Nova Zembla specimens consisted mainly of willow of various thicknesses. There were also, however, pieces of beech nearly a foot in diameter, several species of pine, among these *P. sylvestris*, an *Abies*, &c. It is thought, that a large portion of this material must have been derived from the Petschora, Ob, and Yenesei rivers, and that none of it could have been derived from the current of the Gulf Stream.

THE past winter was very mild in the southern portion of Iceland, but quite severe in the northern. In the middle of January an eruption of the volcanoes in the great Yokul Mountains, in the south-east corner of the island, took place, which continued with unusual violence for about a week, and then suddenly ceased. Since then no fire has been noticed. Large quantities of ashes have fallen on different localities, but it is believed that the deep bed of snow protected the pasture lands from destruction. Volcanic eruptions took place at the same time in Chili.

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THE recent number of *Petermann's Mittheilungen* contains articles and maps on the American North Polar Expedition and Transcaspian Russia. The New Lybian Expedition and the Russian March on Khiva are the subjects of two of the articles.

BY the death of the last surviving porpoise the Brighton Aquarium has to lament the loss of one of its most attractive features.

WE have received the Prospectus of a new club to be called "The Scientific Societies Club." The approaching concentration of scientific societies, the Prospectus says, suggests that the present is a fitting time for the formation of a "Scientific Societies Club," which would afford in the neighbourhood of Burlington House conversation and reading rooms, as well as the usual facilities of a club for members of all scientific societies. In order to render the club generally available and as useful as possible to the scientific world, it is proposed that the entrance fee and the annual subscription shall each be small.

ACCORDING to Dr. Fritsch, the discovery has lately been made of lacustrine dwellings in the vicinity of Leipsic, as the result of certain engineering operations undertaken to regulate the course of the River Elster. After passing through a series of layers at a certain depth, the workmen found a series of oak piles pointed below and decomposed above, and supporting a certain number of oak trunks placed horizontally; and on the same level with these were found certain lower jaws, and teeth of oxen, fragments of antlers, broken bones of various mammifers, shells of an Anodon, fragments of pottery, two polished stone hatchets, &c.

PROF. C. A. WHITE, of Iowa State University, and State geologist of Iowa, has been appointed to the new chair of Geology and Natural History at Bowdoin College.

A COMMUNICATION has been made to the Academia dei Lincei of Rome, by M. Tarry, giving the results of his personal experience and investigations into the connection between the cyclonic storms and the showers of sand that frequently visit Southern Europe. M. Tarry, after travelling as secretary to the French Meteorological Society into Northern Africa and the Desert of Sahara, and having consulted the files of the *Daily Weather Bulletin* of the Paris Observatory, believes himself to have established the fact that whenever a cyclone passes southward from Europe over the Mediterranean Sea into Africa (as some few of them do every season), it then returns northward or northwestward, and transports the sand which in the desert formed a sand-storm to the southern coasts of Europe as a sand-shower of greater or less duration. The satisfactory investigation of this subject is much impeded by the absence of barometric observations on the southern shores of the Mediterranean; and to remedy this defect, M. Tarry has recently established new meteorological statistics at Mogadore, Morocco, Terceira, Madeira, and even in the interior of the Sahara.

"GENERAL Remarks on the Climate of Bombay, with a brief description of the Peculiarities of the Weather of the year 1871," is the title of a pamphlet which we have just received, written by Mr. Charles Chambers, F.R.S., Superintendent of the Kolaba Observatory.

THE *Times of India* states that education is making rapid progress in Ceylon, and vernacular schools will soon be within the reach of every section of the native community. The same paper states that Ceylon will contribute a selection of colonial products to the next Exhibition at South Kensington.

THE Rev. Thos. Garnier, Dean of Winchester, who died recently at the age of 98, was the "father" of the Linnean Society, having been elected during the last century, in 1798, only ten years after the foundation of the Society. Some of his contributions to botanical literature bore the date of last century.

THE additions to the Zoological Society's Gardens during the past week include a Garnet's Galago (*Galago garnetti*) from East Africa, presented by Capt. Geo. Butchart; a Manx Shearwater (*Procellaria puffinus*), British, presented by Dr. Bree; a Reeve's Muntjac (*Cervulus reevesi*), from China, presented by Mr. R. Swinhoe; a Spotted Cavy (*Cælogenys paca*), from South America, presented by Mr. J. de Castro; three Common Chamæleons (*Chamæleon vulgaris*), from Africa, presented by Mr. W. C. Hotham; an Alligator (*Alligator sp.*), presented by Mr. W. Gillespie.

SOCIETIES AND ACADEMIES

PARIS

Academy of Sciences, Sept. 8.—M. Bertrand in the chair. —The following papers were read:—Fifth note on Guano, by M. Chevreul.—Note on the observations of M. Lecoq de Boisbaudran, relative to the appearance of Phylloxera in the vineyards of the Charente, by M. Milne-Edwards.—Note on the number of points of intersection which represent a multiple point common to two plane curves, &c., by M. de la Gournerie. —Researches on Crystalline Dissociation, continuation by MM. P. A. Favre and C. A. Valson. This portion of the paper dealt with the valuation and division of the work done in saline solutions.—Note on a New System of representing the continuous Meteorological Observations, made at the National Observatory, Algiers, by M. Bulard.—Note on Magnetism, third part, by M. J. M. Gaugain.—On the Spontaneous Motion of Ascension of Liquids in Capillary Tubes, by C. Decharme. This portion of the paper treated of the subject from a theoretical point of view.—On Pyrogallol in the presence of iron salts, by M. E. Jacquemin.—Researches on the Spectra of Chlorophyll, by M. J. Chautard. The author has found that this substance so easily changed as viewed from the physiological point of view, is very stable when subjected to chemical reagents.—On the state of the Volcano of Nisiros, in March, 1873, by M. H. Gorceix.—M. de Laval sent a note stating that he was the original proposer of the use of the carbonic disulphide against the Phylloxera.—The ephemerides of Brorsen's Comet were received from Mr. Plummer, and a note on the same comet, and on that of Faye, from M. Stephan.—New observations on the presence of Magnesium on the Solar Limb, and an answer to certain points in M. Faye's theory, by Father Tacchini. The author stated in his letter that the fact of the line 1474 K always appearing with *b*, and even without it, induces him to think that the former is not due to iron which is much heavier than magnesium.—On the use of Chronometers at sea, by M. Magnac.—Reflections on Spontaneous generation, in relation to a note by M. Gayon, on the spontaneous changes of eggs, and a note of Mr. Grace Calvert on the power of preventing the development of Protoplasmic life, by M. A. Béchamp.

THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE

THE forty-third meeting of the Association was opened yesterday evening in Bradford, when Dr. Carpenter resigned the Presidency, and was succeeded by Prof. A. W. Williamson, who delivered the opening address in St. George's Hall.

Notwithstanding that Bradford is considerably larger than Brighton, its resources in the way of sleeping accommodation have been considerably tried by the unusually large influx of visitors caused by the meeting of the Association. All the hotels, we believe, are full, as well as most of the private houses on the lists of the secretaries. Arrangements have, however, been made with the railway companies for conveying members to and from neighbouring towns where hotel accommodation may be obtained. The local secretaries, Dr. Campbell, Mr. Goddard, and Mr. Piele Thompson, have spared no pains to make the

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